## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment under 37 .C.F.R. § 1.121 ("Notice") was mailed to Applicant on September 25, 2006, indicating that the wrong status identifier was used for Claims 30-36 in the Amendment filed on September 18, 2006. The September 18, 2006 Amendment added new Claims 18-36. In the remarks section of the Amendment, Applicant stated that Claims 18-29 of the new claims were readable on the elected invention. Claims 30-36 are directed to the non-elected invention and were thus given the status identifier "withdrawn" as required under Section 714 of the MPEP. Nevertheless, in light of the observations in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, and in order to advance prosecution in this case, the status identifier for Claims 30-36 is changed from "withdrawn" to "new". In all other respects, this Amendment is the same as the Amendment previously submitted on September 25, 2006.

Claims 1-17 have been canceled and new Claims 18-36 added. New Claims 18-29 are readable on the elected invention.

Before turning to the claims, reference is made to one disclosed and illustrated embodiment of a cuff apparatus. The cuff apparatus includes an airbag (bladder) and a chassis (case) that receives the airbag. This embodiment measures blood pressure by detecting a bloodstream sound (known as a Korotkoff sound). For example, in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 6, inner and outer circumferential surfaces 120 and 110 of an airbag 10 are located within a chassis 20 and secured thereto by four fasteners 11a, 11b, 11c and 11d located on outer circumferential

surfaces 120 of airbag 10. A plurality of cushions 14a, 14b, 14c and 15 are located within the airbag. Cushions 14a and 14c are placed at positions corresponding to the locations of arteries in the upper arms and serve to suppress the flow of blood in the arteries of either the left or right upper arm parts when a blood pressure measurement is taken. At these locations, pockets 16a and 16b (located on the airbag) each contain a respective microphone 17a and 17b, to detect the Korotkoff sound during a blood pressure measurement. According to this arrangement, blood pressure can be reliably detected no matter whether the left upper arm or right upper arm is inserted into the cuff apparatus. See pages 10, 18 and 26 of Applicants' disclosure.

Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by Sano. Claim 1 is canceled. New Claim 18 is directed to a cuff apparatus for measuring blood pressure and has a combination of features, including first and second microphones arranged in an airbag to oppose each other, so that the first microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at a right upper arm of the human body near arties thereof when the right upper arm is inserted through and covered with the airbag and the compressed air is introduced into the airbag, and the second microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at a left upper arm of the human body near arties thereof when the left upper arm is inserted through and covered with the airbag and the compressed air is introduced into the airbag. Sano does not disclose a microphone for detecting Korotkoff sounds, much less first and second microphones arranged in an airbag to oppose each other. For at least this reason, Claim 18 is patentable over Sano.

Claim 18 is also patentable over Sano taken in combination with Castro. Claims 4-5 were rejected over Sano in combination with Castro based on Castro's

disclosure of an affixing unit 15 for securing a microphone for an ultrasonic application of Castro's device. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 of Castro, there is only one affixing unit 15 is disclosed. There is no teaching or suggestion of incorporating two microphones in this device, much less first and second microphones arranged in an airbag to oppose each other, so that the first microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at a right upper arm of the human body near arties thereof and the second microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at a left upper arm of the human body near arties thereof. For at least this reason, Claim 18 is patentable over Sano in combination with Castro. Allowance of Claim 18 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 19-36 depend from allowable Claim 18 and recite additional features of invention that further distinguish over the prior art. As these claims are allowable by virtue of their dependence from allowable claim 18, it is not necessary at this time to address the features in these claims that further distinguish the cuff apparatus at issue here over the prior art. New Claims 30-36 generally recite features set forth previously in Claims 11-17 which were withdrawn from consideration as a result of the May 19, 2006 restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of Claims 30-36 because they depend from allowable Claim 18. See MPEP § 821.04(a). Allowance of Claims 19-36 is earnestly solicited.

As a final matter, it is believed that the wording in new Claim 18 addresses the claim objections set forth at the top of page three of the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of that claim objection is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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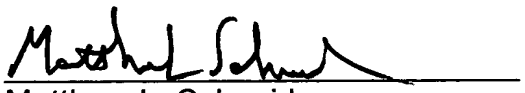
Date: October 13, 2006 By: 

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